



County of Ottawa

Health Department

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Health Officer

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Michigan House of Representatives
Commerce Committee

Re: Support for House Bill 4163 (2007)

The Ottawa County Health Department is pleased to provide support for House Bill 4163 of 2007 (HB 4163) amending the Public Health Code and barring smoking in all public places. There are many public health reasons to eliminate smoking in public places.

- According to the Surgeon General, there is no safe exposure limit to secondhand smoke.
- According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, secondhand smoke causes between 35,000 and 40,000 deaths from heart disease every year nationally.
- Tobacco use is the #1 cause of preventable death in Michigan and secondhand smoke exposure is the #2 preventable cause of death.
- The EPA has classified secondhand smoke as a Group A Carcinogen in the same class as inhaled asbestos.

Surveys completed in Ottawa County in 2006 and 2007 indicate:

- 90% of adults agree that the presence of secondhand smoke poses a serious health risk for non-smokers.
- 86% of our adult population would prefer smoke-free workplaces.
- 81% would prefer smoke-free restaurants.

It is clear that secondhand smoke is dangerous and that there is support in Ottawa County for smoke-free public places. HB 4163 will protect the public health of Michigan.

Respectfully submitted,

Donovan Thomas
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Ottawa County Health Department